

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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DRAFT

SEP 08 1999

Group 3700

Appn. Number: 08/580,493

Appn. Filed: 1995 Dec 29

Applicant: Philippe BERNA

Appn. Title: PROCESS FOR MAKING A VERSATILE CLAMPING DEVICE DESIGNED TO HOLD OBJECTS WITHOUT DAMAGING THEM, SUCH A DEVICE AND ITS USE

Examiner/GAU: David Bryant/3726

Molières-sur-Cèze, France, 1999, August 27, Fri

DRAFT FIRST RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED 1999, JULY 28 AND AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Sir:

In a draft first response to the Office Action mailed 1999, July 28, please consider following amendment to pending independent claims 1, 2, and 16 of the above application:

--1. (Eight Times Amended) A [The] method of making a device for holding an object [objects] by clamping the object while preventing damage thereto, said method [without any risk at all of damaging them] comprising the steps of:

[a)] providing a cylindrical support part, providing two arms, each arm including a transverse hole and at least one of these arms carrying an elastic buffer secured thereto, said buffer having a contact face for contacting said object and having under its contact face a thickness large enough so that said buffer acts as a compression spring when said buffer contacts said object, and being resilient enough such that said contact face can flex and pivot to substantially conform to the surface of said object, and

[b)] placing said arms on said support part such that said support part is disposed in said transverse holes of said two arms and [of which] at least one arm is movable along said support part, and said buffer is disposed at a distance from said support part with its contact face approximately at a right angle to said support part, and

[c) securing to one of said two arms at a distance from said support part one substantially elastic buffer having under its contact face, which is approximately at a right angle to said support part, a thickness large enough so that said buffer could act as a compression spring]

wherein said object may be held by said device by positioning said object between said arms and in contact with said elastic buffer, and tilting said at least one movable arm with respect to said support part such that a frictional force is created between said support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said at least one movable arm.

--2. (Eight Times Amended) A device for holding an object [objects]